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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 FBO-05 NCT-02
HA-05 SR-04 AID-05 CCO-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10 L-03
ACDA-12 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00
CA-01 A-02 OCS-06 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 AMAE-00
/122 W
----------056513 2212142 /40
O 2211502 SEP 79
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2830
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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E.O.12065: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SKUM, CR
SUBJ: SITUATION IN CAR

1. BANGUI IS ENTIRELY CALM THIS MORNING SEPTEMBER 22, ALTHOUGH MOST STORES REMAIN CLOSED AND MANY LOCALS HAVE STAYED HOME. FRENCH MILITARY VERY MUCH IN CHARGE, HELPED BY LOCAL SECURITY FORCES, SOME OF WHOM ARE CLEANING UP DEBRIS LEFT FROM YESTERDAY'S LOOTING. WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING ARMITS.

2. SEPTEMBER 20 COUP WENT EXTRAORDINARILY WELL. THERE WAS NO RPT NO OPPOSITION IN EITHER BANGUI OR BERBERATI, FORMER'S HOME, WHICH WAS ALSO OCCUPIED BY FRENCH TROOPS. IMPERIAL GUARD, COMPOSED OF BOKASSA'S FELLOW M'BAKAS FROM BERBERATI, WAS NO SERIOUS RESIST FRENCH FORCES AND PROMPTLY SURREN HERE. SOME HAVE RETURNED TO CIVILIAN PURSUITS (FARMING) BUT OFFICERS HAVE BEEN RETD TO BERBERATI BARRS FOR GUARDS. OTHER MILITARY AND POLICE CONTINUED FULLY WITH BOKRO AND FRENCH. FORTUNE, AND MOST DISCIPLINE. THERE HAS BEEN NO TRIBALLY-INSPIRED VIOLENCE. LOOTING, CONFINED BY BOKRO AND FRENCH AS MEANS OF LETTING OFF STEAM, HAS ALMOST JOYOUS AND
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ENDED WITH ONLY MILD PRESSURE FROM SECURITY FORCES. ONLY

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CASUALTIES REPORTED IN ENTIRE OPERATION WERE LOOTERS TRAMPLED OR CUT IN BREAKING PLATE GLASS.

3.ACCORDING FRENCH EMBASSY, FRENCH PARAS, WHOSE DISCIPLINE WAS DEEN REMARKABLE, CAME LARGELY FROM CHAD WITH [illegible] NOTABLY HELICOPTERS. FROM PARIS ON [illegible] EMBASSY HAS APPARENTLY RECEIVED [illegible] BUT NOT AWARE OF TIMING. SOME CRITICISM [illegible] FRENCH IMPLEMENT INTERVENTION PLANS ON HEELS OF BOKASSA'S DEPARTURE, OR WAS HE [illegible] VICE PRIMIN KOYAMBA, SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT PONCLET, AND OTHER NOTABLES.

4. DAVID DACKO IS A SINGULARLY UNCHARISMATIC PERSON, BUT HAS REPUTATION FOR INTEGRITY AND SOPHISTICATION AND IS A FIGURE WHO CAN COMMAND LOYALTY OF MEN MBAKA GOVERNMENT CRITICISED. NEW GOVERNMENT LIKELY TO BE ARRANGED NEXT WEEK, WILL PROBABLY INCREASE NUMBER OF MINISTERS. MISSION, WHO IS ADVISED BY FRENCH EMBASSY, WILL PROBABLY KEEP VICE PRESIDENCY AND MAY REMAIN AS MINISTER. GENERAL, LIKE MILITARY CHIEF OF STAFF MAKOMBOLO WHO WAS KNOWN TO BE INVOLVEMENT IN JANUARY AND APRIL PROBLEMS, AND VICE PRIMIN MAGALE, WHO NOTORIOUSLY CORRUPT, MAY BE EXPENDABLE. THERE IS NO SUGGESTION SO FAR OF LEGAL ACTION AGAINST OTHER INDICATED IN KILLINGS. ABOUT 30 POLITICAL PRISONERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED, AND OTHERS SHOULD BE FREE IN NEXT FEW DAYS. AMNESTY TALK HAS BEEN NO AMNESTY ANNOUNCED FOR CRIMINAL PRISONERS.

5. IN SHORT, THIS HAS BEEN A QUICK, CLEAN, AND HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL OPERATION. FOR ALL THE CAREFUL [illegible] IT HAS BEEN ALMOST TOO EASILY DONE. BOKASSA, FOR ONE, NOT POPULARLY ELECTED PRESIDENT, HAS DEMONSTRABLE CLAIM TO LEGITIMACY.

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BUT HIS OBVIOUS AND TOTAL DEPENDENCE ON FRENCH MAY GIVE HIM TO CRITICISM IN OAU AND ELSEWHERE. FRENCH, EVEN WITH FRENCH ASSISTANCE, CAN PASSED STRATEGIC [illegible] SECURITY AROUND. ECONOMY WILL LIKELY DETERIORATE FURTHER TO NEAR TERM MONTHS. DISTRIBUTION DIFFICULT [illegible] EMBASSY WILL SEEK ALLIANCE [illegible] MAIL BAG. FOOD IS SUFFICIENT [illegible] SELVES, AND DEAD CARRIED OVER [illegible] REPUBLIQUE. WHICH [illegible] COOKE

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